

Government Orders

[English]

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the hon. minister has given notice of limitation on Motion No. 1.

On behalf of my party I take great exception to the minister's notification, and I want to advise the minister that his motion certainly comes at a very inappropriate time with His Honour, Mr. Speaker, considering the ruling that was placed before him this morning.

I would like to advise the minister that we will be debating this motion, and we feel that the government is certainly not correct in moving this notice at this particular time.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I wish to point out to the hon. members of this House that the minister is complying with the Standing Orders in giving notice of this motion, although the Chair has taken under advisement the issue of whether Motion No. 1 on the Order Paper is in order.

The Chair takes note of the motion of closure that the Hon. Minister of National Health and Welfare has just tabled.

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[English]

AERONAUTICS ACT**MEASURE TO AMEND**

Mr. Howard Crosby (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleague from Nova Scotia will bear with me. I merely want to make a few brief remarks on Bill C-5 which amends the Aeronautics Act.

As members are well aware, many of the provisions of Bill C-5 relate to the security measures that are taken in airports across Canada for the travelling public. The bill is also concerned with the safety of passengers. It is just to those two points that I would like to direct a few brief remarks.

I believe that the regulations and procedures that are most acceptable to the public are those that appear to be reasonable and rational and solve the problem of security in the processing of airline passengers. However,

while I am no expert on aeronautics, I am an expert on airline passenger services, having travelled for over 10 years back and forth to my constituency in Halifax West and various other places.

I would like to make a few remarks in the hope that officials will read the record and pay some attention. While I endorse wholeheartedly security measures at airports across Canada, I am not always satisfied that the rules are effectively and properly administered.

Let me just give one rather easy example between airports. As you approach the Ottawa International Airport security area, you simply take your choice of two or three avenues in which to have the required inspection carried out. On the other hand, in the Montreal airport, that is Dorval, you are channelled through one gateway on to the security at which your boarding pass and other credentials are inspected. At Halifax International Airport, you are channelled through one gateway but no pre-inspection is carried out.

Just very simply observing those three airports, there is no question that the most effective inspection method is to channel all passengers through one entry, inspect their boarding passes and any other credentials they are required to have, and then go on to the inspection.

Time and time again I am sure other members have experienced at the Ottawa International Airport where you are simply allowed your choice of inspection stations. There is always confusion about boarding passes. People are held up. In many cases they are asked to check metal objects and so on.

Why could the authorities not simply have a system employed at all airports whereby there is pre-inspection of credentials where passengers are told that they should remove metal objects from their pockets or purses and put them in a container and other information about the inspection process?

This pre-inspection would also allow those poor people whom I encounter sometimes—and I must confess that on occasion I have been one of them—who are late arriving, possibly and hopefully through no fault of their own, and are unable or unwilling to jump ahead of the line and therefore may risk missing their flight.

I think all of us can have mercy on people in that position and through some pre-inspection process allow them to proceed on a priority basis. There ought to be enough humanity among my colleagues to endorse that